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Students quarantining after confirmed COVID-19 cases at HHSS

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students in a Grade 11 chemistry class, a Grade 12 English class and a Grade 12 math class have been identified as close contacts of two individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19.

A March 14 e-mail to families from HHSS principal Chris Boulay included a letter from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit noting that students in the chemistry class must quarantine from March 14 until midnight on March 22, while students in the English class and math class must quarantine from March 14 until midnight on March 25.

"This letter serves as official notice of your child's mandatory quarantine and testing recommendation," reads the letter. "You will be contacted by the public health unit only if you receive a positive COVID-19 test, if you call to report symptoms, or if quarantine dates change based on our investigation."

Quarantine is a legal requirement to prevent the spread of COVID-19, reads the letter.

Students must quarantine at home from today until midnight on March 22, or until midnight on March 25 depending on which class they were in, which means they should not leave their property unless it is for a COVID-19 test or for necessary medical attention. The health unit letter recommends chemistry class students go for testing at their nearest assessment centre, on March 15, and if tested prior to that, a retest is "strongly recommended" on March 18, and that English and math class students go for testing on March 18, with a retest recommended on

March 22.

"Evidence has shown that most people who get COVID-19 will test positive 7 days or more after being exposed to someone with COVID-19," reads a fact sheet sent to parents. "This means that if your child gets tested less than seven days after their exposure, there is a risk that they will test negative even though they could have the virus. Current recommendations suggest that testing should occur on or after day seven. If a close contact is tested prior to day seven, a repeat test will be recommended on day 10 if the initial test was negative."

Students should be monitored daily for symptoms including fever, new or worsening cough, headache and shortness of breath, also sore throat, difficulty swallowing, changes to sense of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, runny nose or nasal congestion.

"If your child does not have symptoms, all household members must stay home except for essential reasons," reads the letter from the health unit. "Essential reasons include attending work/school/childcare and essential errands such as groceries, attending medical appointments or picking up prescriptions."

"If your child has symptoms, household members must quarantine until a negative test result is received," reads the letter. "Household members are at increased risk based on sharing of a household and it is important to stay home to prevent potential spread of COVID-19."

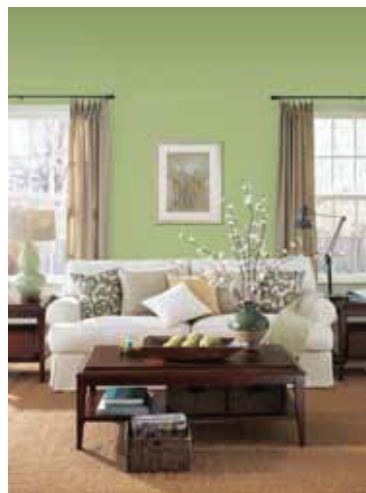
Parents have been asked to consult a health care provider or seek immediate medical attention through an emergency department if required, and to contact the health unit to report symptoms of any household members at 1-866-888-4577, extension 1508.

see FOUR page 8



Bringing the heat

Highlands resident Nick Colliver sends flames into the air while practicing his act in the Head Lake Park parking lot on Tuesday, March 9 in Haliburton. Colliver said he started to work on fire juggling, eating and breathing because of the pandemic. He welcomes clients for shows and can be contacted through Facebook at Phoenix Pyro. /DARREN LUM Staff



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TLDSB reshuffle sends shock waves across Haliburton County

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Lisa Barry was sat at her kitchen table helping her youngest son with his school work last Wednesday morning [March 10] when her email pinged. It was a notice from Trillium Lakelands District School Board [TLDSB], indicating that changes were coming to the system's Learn@Home program, and that one of Lisa's children may be impacted.

"I welled up with tears as soon as I saw the email come in, because I was so fearful of what it would say," Barry said.

That feeling was prevalent in many households across the region. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, many families made the decision to enrol their children in online learning for the duration of the 2020/21 school year. While safety certainly played a factor, the steady line of messaging we've been hearing from parents is they felt Learn@Home provided the best opportunity for consistency during a time when further lockdowns and school closures appeared to be a formality rather than a possibility.

Barry decided to keep her two sons – one in Grade 2 and the other in Grade 5 – home. While her older son enjoyed the online learning format, thriving through participation in live virtual classes, her younger son struggled. She quickly made the decision to transition him to asynchronous learning.

"I get a package of 40 to 60 pages of worksheets, and we have contact with a teacher two times a week," Barry said.

This worked, as she was able to spend additional time with her son and help him along. Barry had steady communication with his three teachers, and she was excited to finally bring some consistency back to her youngest's education. At the back end of last year, with the board still trying to figure out online learning, her son had five different teachers over the course of a few months.

Barry opened the email and started to read. She was informed that impending changes to TLDSB's Learn@Home model would mean her son would be losing two of his three teachers.

Information was scarce last week, but TLDSB has since confirmed with the *Echo* that less than 175 students from across the district have been impacted by the latest changes to online learning. The move comes as the board transitions more students back into the classroom.

"We've been addressing waitlists as best we can throughout the year where parents have requested their child move from online to in-school and vice versa," said Catherine Shedden, TLDSB district manager of corporate communications. She noted that similar reorganizations had previously taken place in October and December. "We had a number of families waiting to move from at-home learning to in-school learning. We also had some [but much fewer] waiting to move from in-school to at-home learning."

April Austen has had two children on a waiting list to return to in-person learning since October. She caught wind of this change on March 9, when she received a phone call from the board saying she had 24 hours to confirm if she wanted her kids to return to class at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden. The proposed return date was set for March 15.

While she was happy to get her kids back into school, Austen admits she was surprised when she got the call.

"Prior to Christmas, I had reached out to the board to find out what was going on. By then, we had been on a waitlist for months. The board had promised there would be integration dates, but I was led to believe there was no space," Austen said. "In the end, I was informed that my kids wouldn't be returning to the classroom until [next] September."

Through this latest move, Shedden confirmed that 107 elementary students have transitioned from at-home learning to in-school learning board-wide, with approximately 57 students moving from in-school learning to at-home learning.

The change has had severe impacts on classes and schedules – both online and in-person. For Kim Switzer, this was "the straw that broke the camel's back."

"My son, Memphis, was just recently diagnosed with ADHD and has some learning disabilities. He's been struggling this year. He's really far behind academically," Switzer said. "Memphis needs consistency. He needs a teacher to know what his triggers are, when he's withdrawing because he doesn't understand something. This is the reason why IEPs [individual education plan] are developed, so teachers know their students and can help and guide them accordingly. Now, with Memphis being moved to a new class with a new teacher, we're back to square one."

Having become fed up of the constant switches – Grade 3 student Memphis has already been moved to another class at least once this school year – Switzer said she will be pulling him from the TLDSB Learn@Home program and will be homeschooling instead.

"He's going to shut down if we put him into a new class. We're already struggling as it is. He's not just going to bounce back from this one. It's better for me to just call it a day and we'll start picking up the pieces, even from the beginning of the year," Switzer said. "We're going to go back to the basics."

Aarica Hurl was on the verge of doing the same with her son, Landon. When she first heard about the changes last week, she feared the worst.

"I was like 'here we go again'," Hurl said. "In the fall, when we started school, we put our daughter in JK for online learning. Within the first four weeks, they cancelled her class completely and shifted her into a whole new class. We just completely pulled her out of school. She hasn't done any school since then. We had already decided, with Landon, that if there were any changes with him, we're going to pull him out and homeschool him too."

Hurl considers herself one of the lucky ones – Landon's five-day schedule remained the same. The only change was that two students were added to his class.

The biggest change is being felt a few rungs up the ladder. As a result of the changes, between 10 and 20 teachers who were leading online classes have been laid off by TLDSB. One of these teachers, speaking to the *Echo* anonymously this week, says the entire situation was mishandled and could have been dealt with much better at the board level.

"There I am on Wednesday morning teaching, and I'm seeing crying faces on the screen. Parents popping up. So I ask what's going on, is everything okay – then one of my students says 'well, no. Dad read me an email. Things are going to change. I'm not OK'. It was heated. There were tantrums. There was some swearing," the teacher said. "At this point, I knew there was going to be a change, but I had no idea people were going to find out this way."

According to other parents from throughout the

region, the scene was similar in their own student's classrooms as they learned about the unexpected changes mid-class.

The teacher, we'll refer to her as Agatha, received an email on Friday, March 5 from her union representative informing her that, due to a board reorganization, her one-year LTO [long-term occasional] contract was in jeopardy. Then, on Tuesday, March 9, Agatha received a phone call from her principal informing her that the class she was teaching was going to be cancelled. She was sworn to secrecy and told a notice would be going out to parents the next day, Wednesday, March 10.

Following the in-class-crisis, Agatha was able to recompose herself and her students, and they spent the rest of the day "talking and crying." They spent their final day together on Thursday, March 11.

"Thinking about these students, this little group of virtual friends... They're the only constant they have in each other's school life right now. I had to split them up into six different classes and then we all, basically, said goodbye to each other. It was really sad," Agatha said.

While she understands the nature of her LTO contract meant her position was never totally secure, and holds no grudge or ill will in that regard, Agatha believes TLDSB has done a massive disservice to the students who have been uprooted by this latest reorganization.

"I just wish they could have found another way to keep us together until June. We're in March already, June is so soon. Just keep us together, for the children's mental health really, and their families. Now they have to deal with so much change. Now they're going to be going into a class where they could know nothing, or everything. Teachers teach at different rates and levels, so I have no idea where these kids are going to be at," Agatha said.

Barry is concerned about the impact these changes have already had on her son. When she pulled him aside last week to inform him that he wouldn't be working with two of his three teachers anymore, he was indifferent.

"He was almost complacent, just numb to it, which in itself is heartbreaking to see," Barry said.

She thought it was ironic that TLDSB, as a school board that prides itself on being a champion for its students' mental health, would decide to push through a change that impacts so many on such short notice.

"It's almost become a buzz word for them – mental health, mental health. Nobody asks if the child will be affected mentally... It was such poor planning to send the notice out during a class period in the morning, there was just no thought put into the impact that would have on students, staff and parents," Barry said. "I think there should have been parent consultations. There has to be a better way to do this."

Austen agreed.

"TLDSB puts out that they do everything with mental health in mind. Mental health is number one, number one, number one. I just don't see it. I think there's a lot of talk and not a lot of action," Austen said.

When asked to comment on the claims made by some parents that their child would be negatively impacted by the reorganization, and that it would have severe effects on their mental health, Shedden said any concerns should be directed to their child's teacher.

"If a parent is concerned about their child's mental well-being they need to speak with the classroom teacher. There are many supports that can be put in place to assist when a child is feeling anxious or concerned," Shedden said.

see 'NO ONE page 9

Health unit issues alert after dangerous form of fentanyl found in local region

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Following a spate of recent overdoses in the Cobourg area, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit [HKPRDHU] is warning area residents about a dangerous "teal coloured" form of fentanyl that appears to be circulating around parts of southern Ontario.

The fentanyl in question may be contaminated with toxic substances, or have inconsistent or increased potency, causing more severe overdose reactions, HKPR staff say.

A synthetic opioid that is often found in pain medication, fentanyl is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine.

According to the health unit, police have confirmed there is evidence that a dangerous form of fentanyl is prevalent in the region.

"We are very concerned about the presence of 'teal coloured' fentanyl in the area, and the fact that more overdose incidents could occur if people aren't aware and extra vigilant that potentially toxic substances are present in our community," says Catherine MacDonald, substances and harm reduction coordinator with the HKPR district health unit.

The health unit could not confirm whether there had been any recent overdoses in Haliburton County tied to the teal coloured fentanyl.

MacDonald provided some safety tips to individuals who choose to use drugs recreationally: Test a small amount of drug before you use, never use alone, ensure that 911 can be contacted in the event of an overdose, avoid mixing your drugs, and keep a naloxone kit on hand.

Naloxone is an emergency medicine that temporarily reverses the effects of an opioid overdose until the victim can get to hospital for treatment.

Signs that someone may be suffering from an overdose include: very large or very small pupils, slow or no breathing, cold and clammy skin, blue or purple fingernails or lips, and snoring or gurgling sounds. Often during a drug overdose, it can be difficult to wake a person up.

County in search of rentals to house new doctors

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Attracting doctors to Haliburton County is Cheryl Kennedy's specialty.

Since taking on the role of physician recruitment coordinator in May 2019, Kennedy has welcomed four new physicians to the community. Selling people on the natural beauty of the Highlands has never been an issue, Kennedy recently told the *Echo*. In her previous role with the Haliburton Family Medical Centre, where she spent 35 years as office manager and, later, executive director, Kennedy was instrumental in shaping the facility's teaching practice. She helped to keep several budding physicians in the community well beyond the expiration of their two-month rural residency.

Already in 2021, Kennedy has helped to bring two new family doctors to Haliburton County. Dr. Haley Hatch moved to the community in January, taking over Dr. Aoife Conway's family practice. Dr. Conway recently retired following a decades-long career in the community. Then, in February, Dr. Muriel Charles arrived in Haliburton, taking over Dr. Kristy Gammon's practice. In a notice posted to the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team Facebook page, Dr. Gammon noted that she wasn't retiring, and was instead taking the opportunity to work in other ways in the community.

There were a couple of new faces at the Haliburton and Minden hospitals last year too, with Dr. Ana Costea and Dr. Kristin Lythgoe joining the ER departments.

While it wasn't the sole reason the community's newest doctors decided to move to Haliburton, the county's physician recruitment program, and the perks it provides, has certainly helped to seal the deal for a number of recruits since it was introduced several years ago.

Through the program, physicians who commit to practicing in Haliburton County receive \$25,000 annually over a six year period, up to a maximum of \$150,000.

Initially conceptualized as a way to attract young doctors to the community, the program has evolved over the years, explained Carol Moffatt, Algonquin Highlands mayor and Haliburton County councillor.

"It's been a slow maturation, but we're there now. The program is now delivering in the way it was always supposed to. We had a bit of a refresh last year, to recalibrate some aspects of it – mostly centering on who we will recruit, and who gets the allowance," Moffatt said.

Kennedy said she was actively working to bring three more physicians to the community by 2022. The one stumbling block she's faced with right now is where she will put these doctors once they arrive.

The booming housing market across Haliburton County has left Kennedy in the awkward position of not being able to find potential physicians a place to live while they're not working. While the county doesn't help financially with accommodations, part of Kennedy's job is to help these doctors acclimatize to the community.

Finding affordable long-term rentals in the area is a near impossibility in today's market, Kennedy explained. Most doctors, when they move to the area, would rather find a place to rent for a year so they can take their time finding a more permanent home. With this in mind, the county committed, in December 2020, to finding a property it could purchase and then rent out to newly-arrived physicians. While Kennedy hasn't been able to find a suitable property just yet, she's hopeful of securing something soon.

"There are rentals available – in fact we recently had a number of people reach out to us to offer us their cottage for a year. The problem is that they want to be able to use the cottage in July and August, which is a completely understandable request, but it's hard to put a physician in a house and expect them to leave for a couple of months during the summer," Kennedy said.

Moffatt isn't surprised by how tough the market is right now, noting the growth the community has seen since the onset of the pandemic last March has put a strain on available inventory.

"We almost have a chicken and egg situation here that can't solve itself out right now, and just keeps going in circles," Moffatt said. "We have seen growth in the community. There are more people staying here and living here right now, which means there's more demand for medical professional services. But where do those medical professionals live once they get here?"

She added, "There are a number and variety of factors chasing each other around in circles, and we have to find some way to get ahead of it."

While Kennedy will continue working on finding a permanent solution, Moffatt called on the community to lend a hand in the interim.

"I would hope that people that have properties available would take a moment to consider the long-term value of working with Cheryl to accommodate physicians for the greater benefit of the community. If somebody takes less money, and I know that's a big request, for a short time to help the community grow, to help with recruitment, then there will be longer-term and increasing opportunities for financial gain all around going forward," Moffatt said. "It's almost a short-term pain for a longer-term community investment gain."

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Benjamin Moore

Water Ambassadors Canada hopes to raise \$100k for World Water Day

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The CN Tower in Toronto is set to turn blue on March 22 – but not for the reason you're probably thinking.

Rather than commemorating the Leafs or Blue Jays, the national landmark will be lighting up in honour of World Water Day. While the event was launched by the United Nations back in 1993 to raise awareness of the approximately 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water, its history here in Canada is tied directly to Haliburton County.

Long-time area residents Barry Hart and Heather Alloway founded Water Ambassadors Canada back in 2002 after being inspired by a man they met at an informal gathering south of the border.

"It was just a bunch of people sitting around shooting the breeze, telling each other about what they do. The last guy started to talk about clean water, and listed off all the benefits of clean drinking water and the benefits to a community for having clean drinking water. He said 'if you want to help do something about this, you can come with us to drill a well in a poor community to see the difference it makes', and it just hit me," Hart told the *Echo*. "I nudged Heather and said this was really interesting. That was what started it for us."

In the 19 years since, Water Ambassadors Canada has invested millions of dollars completing more than 1,000 water projects in over 20 developing countries. In the past six months alone, the organization has assisted communities in Guatemala, Honduras, Zambia, Uganda, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Tanzania, Liberia, Ecuador, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

That assistance, Hart says, is facilitated by a collection of "boots on the ground" partners, who inform Water Ambassadors when they hear about a project that needs completing.

Projects can range both in terms of cost and complexity. The most expensive option is to drill an entirely new well.

"Drilling wells costs a lot of money, and is the most difficult project that is to be carried out in only the most desperate situations. Drilled wells are expensive, and they aren't guaranteed," Hart said. "Statistically, if you get a guy in to drill a well, he'll likely find water. Now, whether he gets you water at 100ft, 200ft or 500ft, that's a little bit of a guessing game. You just don't know what you're going to find."

Workers can make educated guesses based off other activity in the area. If they know another village close by accessed water at a certain depth level, it's a fair assumption to think they will have a simi-



Guatemala 2020 - kids playing in the water as the new well was being flushed. / Submitted

lar level of success. But it's always something of a guessing game.

A drilled well typically costs between \$6,000 and \$7,000, providing there are no issues. If workers hit hard rock while drilling, that "changes the whole game" according to Hart, and can see costs escalate into the tens of thousands.

As well as drilling new wells, Water Ambassadors also fixes old ones. In Nicaragua alone there are estimated to be 70,000 damaged wells, Hart says.

"Well repair and rehabilitation is one of our most efficient programs," Hart says. "That can be anything as simple as tightening a nut or bolt that has come loose in the well's mechanical device, replacing a rusted part or a collapsed tube, or it could mean going down, breaking up the concrete pad the well base sits on and redoing that."

Water Ambassadors also installs chlorination systems, distributes different water filters and provides communities with bleach that can help to purify water and be used for other things, such as washing hospital clothing and sterilizing hospital equipment.

On March 22, the organization will be hosting its 'Lighting Up the World Blue' fundraiser, where they are hoping to raise \$100,000. To bring awareness to the initiative, as previously mentioned, the CN Tower will be lighting up blue. It will be joined by other landmarks across the country such as Ripley's Aquarium, Toronto City Hall, Calgary Tower, Charlottetown City Hall, the Calgary Science Centre, Vancouver City Hall and BC Place. Haliburton will also be getting in on the action, with Water Ambassadors making preparations to light up the water fountain at Head Lake Park.

"Hart said anyone with a cell phone



Uganda 2020, the unveiling of a brand new handwashing station. /Submitted

can contribute to the cause. By texting 'WATER' to 45678, \$25 will be donated to Water Ambassadors, with the money simply added to your next cell phone bill.

"Contaminated drinking water is the biggest cause of death and disease in the world, and it's the easiest problem to fix. You just have to give people clean water. It's so simple," Hart said. "More people die from dirty water than from anything else."

The organization recently received a legacy gift of \$100,000 from a long-time Haliburton cottager who recently passed away. That money will be used to match any donations received on March 22.

In the two decades since launching Water Ambassadors, the organization

has helped to bring clean and sustainable water to more than 300,000 individuals across the globe. Not bad for something that started right here in Haliburton County, Hart remarked.

"The charity started in Haliburton at Lakeside Church almost 20 years ago. Since then the people of Haliburton, the churches of Haliburton, the service clubs of Haliburton, golfers who go to our golf tournaments, businesses, the general community – we have had phenomenal support," Hart said. "We have become a national water charity that works internationally, and it all started right here in Haliburton."

For more information, visit www.waterambassadorscanada.org.

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Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott (middle) pictured alongside members of Haliburton County Paramedic Service following the announcement that the provincial government would be providing \$3.25 million locally to fund the community's paramedicine program. /Submitted photo

Haliburton County to receive \$3.25m to bolster LTC paramedicine program

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County is set to receive a \$3.25 million provincial windfall to expand the community's paramedicine for long-term care pilot program.

In a news release distributed to media on March 9, Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, said this initiative will help provide seniors with better access to the healthcare services they require while remaining in the comfort of their own home.

"This new funding will help keep our loved ones at home longer and avoid unnecessary trips to the hospital," Scott said. "Thanks to our Haliburton County Paramedic Service, this program will help even more seniors and has the potential to delay the need for long-term care."

The additional funds will allow local paramedics to carry out more non-emergency home visits to local residents and increase in-home testing procedures, and allow for ongoing monitoring of changing or escalating conditions to prevent or reduce emergency incidents for seniors. The program includes online and virtual supports, which means area residents are able to access health services 24/7, according to the news release.

Tim Waite, chief of the Haliburton County Paramedic Service, informed county council last week that the municipality will receive the funding in stages over the next three years. He said he was in the process of figuring out the logistics of the program, and would be providing another report to council later this month. He suggested it would include recommendations for increased staffing, vehicle purchases and equipment upgrades.

"I look forward to seeing how this will roll out. It's a fabulous project. I

“

This new funding will help keep our loved ones at home longer and avoid unnecessary trips to the hospital.

— Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock

know it's a lot of work for you, Tim, but it will be worthwhile in the end," said county warden Liz Daniels.

This announcement is part of a second phase of funding province-wide to bolster community paramedicine programs all across Ontario. Waite noted that Haliburton County qualified simply because it had an existing paramedic program.

In October 2020, the province partnered with five communities in launching the program – in Brant County, Cochrane, Ottawa, Renfrew County and York Region. The roll-out was considered a success, and the program was later opened up to a further 29 communities, including Haliburton County.

According to Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Ontario's Minister of Long-Term Care, this program helps to provide seniors, their families and caregivers with assurances and "peace of mind" that their needs will be taken care of at home while they wait to transition into a long-term care home.

"Expanding the program across the province means that more of our loved ones can access services from their own homes, potentially even delaying the need for long-term care, while still providing the quality care and service they need and deserve," Fullerton said.



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Something to answer for

IT WAS QUITE disconcerting last week hearing the stories from parents whose children are going to be impacted by the latest classroom reshuffle within Trillium Lakelands District School Board [TLDSB].

Quite frankly, and to be intentionally blunt, the whole thing kinda stinks.

While this is nothing new, given that the board has carried out two previous reorganizations – one in October and another in December – parents were united in the belief that this one felt a little different. Or a lot different depending on who you spoke to.

There were no early rumours or leaks put out suggesting a change was imminent, instead what TLDSB decided to do was send a generic email, with next to no information included, to parents in the middle of the school day, informing them everything their child had come to know in recent weeks and months, at least from a learning perspective, was about to be pulled out from under their feet.

For those of you that aren't quite aware, these parents, and more specifically their children, have been put through the ringer this school year. There has been very little in the way of consistency, with some elementary-level kids this week moving on to their fifth or sixth teacher. These kids need some level of stability, a familiar face to guide them if they are to reach their potential. These are important formative years for these children.

Now, 164 students are going to have to start over once again. They'll have to try and make new friends, connect with a new teacher and adapt to new learning practices. Oh, and they had better do it quick, because there's less than a third of the school year remaining.

The timing of this announcement

seems strange, especially considering it has had very little impact on in-person classes here in Haliburton County. We're hearing that a brand new combined senior kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 class will be created at Archie Stouffer Elementary School, while there would be some student additions to existing classes at other facilities.

If it had to be done at all, why wasn't the reorganization pushed through earlier this year, to give students ample time to readjust and acclimatize to their new surroundings? While it has been suggested the board should have simply moved those

who wanted to return to in-person learning and left the Learn@Home cohorts as they were, that scenario likely wasn't possible. I'm sure the provincial government has very strict regulations regarding how many students have to be in a class to qualify for funding. That, in my mind, is why between 10 and 20 TLDSB teachers were let go last week. Upper level government bureaucracy.

One thing TLDSB can answer for, though, is why on earth they decided to send the notice out to parents, many of whom were literally sitting right beside their child as they participated in class, outlining these changes. They had to know it was going to cause some amount of upset. Yes, they legally had to give the teachers a certain amount of notice so that they were finished by Friday. But the parents definitely could have waited until later in the day to read that email and help their kids through the news.

That poor decision led to unexpectedly tear-filled classes for many students and teachers. Perhaps if the board had, for a single second, approached this whole reshuffle from the perspective of a parent, they could have avoided this whole mess.



mike
baker

Editorial



Drop in time

by Darren Lum

Endurance

I SIT IN MY kitchen. It's evening time and I've opened my iTunes and I'm listening to so much music I just haven't listened to in a while. Coco Love Alcorn sings a song called That Old Feeling. My friends sang it to me last year on my birthday.

In this song Coco sings about the healing and joy and peace that can be found when we gather with close friends and let ourselves truly engage in a moment together.

"We... gather around when we can... and we let ourselves be true. It doesn't matter how the years go by, that old feeling always comes through."

I cried when they sang it to me then, and I have a big lump in my throat as listen to it tonight. It's our one year anniversary of COVID-19 and we have all endured a lot. We've followed rules. We've stayed home. We built outdoor living rooms (well my friends did).

We have had many creative birthday parties. Everyone has been unique. For one we had everyone mail cards and the birthday guy was surrounded by so many hand written well wishes. For another we had a Zoom dinner and we all cooked the same meal together and we talked and laughed and caught up. In December, we sat outside in the gently falling snow, by the campfire and ate birthday cake. We made a care package and mailed it to a friend last week. We pad-

dled for a July birthday. We rode bikes for a May birthday. We did a socially distanced potluck where we all took food to a central location and then filled our plates and took them home and had dinner on Zoom. One lucky friend got a video with a whole bunch of people singing happy birthday and sending wishes.

We haven't been in each other's houses for months and months, but we have stay connected and carried on in new and creative

ways. We have followed the rules. Our county has done so well keeping the COVID-19 case numbers down. And still, we are not done. There is the risk of a third wave. People have not been vaccinated yet. We need to stay the course.

In some ways it almost feels harder now because we are so close and we just want to do the things we used to,

like go to a concert or a hockey game or visit family members, or go to a friends for a dinner party. We will get there. But not yet.

This is when we all need to invoke our inner warrior and stay strong, grounded and committed. We need to continue to endure. The time has changed, the days are longer. The sap is running. The ice will melt. Spring is coming. Flowers will start popping up. Leaves will return. Soon our county will be filled with birds returning from the south. It will get warmer.

The earth will continue to evolve and so will we.

Tales from
the great



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points of view

If a tree falls

IF YOU HAVE owned a pet for any length of time, you probably know that they are born with a highly developed sense of selective hearing. For instance, you can call “Here kitty” to a cat all day long and it will act as if you haven’t uttered a sound, but just try to open a box containing a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle and see what happens.

This was made clear to me the other day when I snuck into the kitchen for a slice of the delicious homemade bread my daughter Carmen made for me. I did this as stealthily as I could, waiting intentionally for the moment when I knew both dogs were sound asleep in the living room before I made my move.

Then, like a hungry ninja, I slipped into the kitchen in my quietest socks, slid the bread out of the bag with the noiseless, deftness of Indiana Jones removing an artifact from a pedestal trap, and then sliced off a piece with the hold-your-breath silence and precision of a surgeon working around a still-beating aorta.

I buttered and spread jam across that slice with the same level of sound you hear from a group of kids when you ask, “Which one of you broke that window?”

But just as I thought I was about to get away with the perfect crime, a minuscule crumb tumbled off the edge of the slice and hit the ground with what must have been, for the dogs, a resounding thud.

“Noooooo!” I yelled.

And before I got to the exclamation point, both dogs were sitting at my feet, drooling heavily.

Bear in mind, these are the same dogs that feign deafness when you utter the phrase “Get off the couch!” Yet, as Jenn noted, they are somehow able to differentiate between the sound of opening a bag of coffee and a bag of cookies.

I believe this selective hearing is something that science and the dog training industry should study more. Perhaps a similar test could even be used by veterinarians when checking dogs for hearing loss.

I envision the day when a veterinarian will come out of the examination room and say, “Mr. Galea, I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is I dropped a piece of my ham sandwich at 40 yards and your dog heard it and came running....”

“And the bad news?” I would obviously ask.

“That will be \$80, plus cold cut fees.”

If you do not own a dog you might think that this is a minor consideration. But let me assure you it is not.

The dog at your feet is not really the issue. Rather, it is the dangerous accumulation of dog drool and look of disappointment and hurt shot your way when you try to ignore them the way that some naïve trainers suggest – as if that’s even possible.

Even the drool is not so bad, although, if one of your dogs is a Labrador retriever, you either need to be a fairly competent swimmer or wear a personal floatation device.

No, the looks of disappointment are the real problem. My mother is world-class in producing guilt-inducing glances, but honestly, she has nothing on my spaniel.

She gives you this look that says, “Sure, you say I’m your best friend, but you won’t even share a slice of bread....”

There’s just no way to resist those eyes.

I pointed this out to Jenn yesterday afternoon, shortly after the dogs and I heard her open up a bag of cookies.



steve
galea

Loon Tales



pic of the past

Vehicular traffic on Haliburton’s unpaved main street was light when this photo was taken in the early 1920s. This shot, looking west on Highland Street shows George Earle’s store, now the Boatworks, at the left with the awning advertising “boots and shoes.” In the distance, behind the third car, is the Lucas family’s Grand Central Hotel. The two buildings on the right still stand today as Bernstein’s Store and McKecks Place. Thanks to the Haliburton Highlands Museum for the loan of this postcard.

letters to the editor

Wetlands should be protected and preserved

To the Editor,

Wetlands enrich our lives. They are places where we can observe and learn about a diversity of plants and animals while enjoying a quiet, natural environment. But wetlands accomplish much, much more. They are crucial in preventing climate change through carbon storage which takes place in vegetation, sediment and dead plants. Complementing our efforts to reduce the use of fossil fuels, removal of carbon from the atmosphere is essential to avoid a climate crisis. Wetlands are also instrumental in mitigating the impacts of climate change by controlling flooding and recharging groundwater.

It is critical that our natural wetlands be protected and preserved. When wetlands are drained or developed, the result is the releasing of carbon into the atmosphere. Mature wetlands develop over thousands of years and newly constructed ones will not reach the same carbon sequestering capacity or biodiversity within our lifetimes.

Unfortunately, in Ontario, the government has been changing laws to circumvent protections afforded to farmlands, wetlands and natural fea-

tures outlined in the Provincial Policy Statement. Within the budget bill 229, Schedule 6 limits the ability of Conservation Authorities to protect life, property and the environment. Schedule 3, of Bill 257 tabled by the Minister of Infrastructure, Laurie Scott, allows Ministerial Zoning Orders to override key provisions of the Planning Act, removing protections from environmentally sensitive lands. These are regressive, short sighted decisions which threaten the health and safety of our communities and our economic future. The public interest is sacrificed for the benefit of private developers.

It is time to chart a course to a green recovery with climate change at top of mind. Natural climate solutions such as protecting our wetlands would reduce our carbon footprint, ensuring a better future for ourselves and for generations to come.

Elizabeth Turner
CCHC

info@concernedcitizenshe.ca



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
mike@haliburtonpress.com

Four classes closed at HHSS due to COVID-19

from page 1

Students in a Grade 9 science class will move to remote learning until March 23 "out of an abundance of caution and based upon the information we have at this time from the health unit," according to a separate e-mail from Boulay.

When asked if students who might have been on the bus with people who later tested positive should quarantine, the school board told the Echo: "The health unit completed an investigation for contact tracing. Therefore, if an individual is identified as a close contact, they would have been contacted by the health unit with direction that they must follow."

A letter to all families notes that if students are not a close contact of the person who tested positive, they can go to school, as usual, and do not need to stay at home, isolate, or go for testing unless they start showing symptoms of COVID-19 and do not pass the daily COVID-19 self-screening.

"We know this information may be upsetting," said the letter to all HHSS families sent by Boulay. "We are working closely with TLDSB and HKPRDHU. Together, we are taking necessary steps to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 within our school community. Due to privacy laws, the health unit will not release personal information about any staff or student who is ill unless deemed necessary."

"Please know that whenever there is an identified COVID-19 case at a school, there is additional cleaning and sanitizing of the school above and beyond the extensive cleaning and sanitizing that occurs throughout each school day," he said. "The safety of our students and staff is most important and we continue to follow all public health protocols."

Secondary school students are following a block or octomester schedule, working on one course at a time in a cohort. In semester two, students were studying one course in one cohort from Feb. 3 to March 9, and then switched to a new course and new cohort on March 10 until April 20.

The school board had partnered with LifeLabs to provide voluntary asymptomatic testing on Saturday, March 6 for students and their family members, teachers and staff. A message went home to TLDSB families about the testing on March 2 and 3 and the tests took place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School for asymptomatic individuals – those not experiencing

any COVID-19 symptoms. It is not known if the cases reported on March 14 was confirmed as a result of that testing, in which 69 people from six schools took part, although the most updated data thus far shows there were no positive tests reported as part of that day's testing.

"Asymptomatic testing is an important layer of protection that helps to track and prevent the spread of COVID-19," reads a March 3 TLDSB media release. "Increased testing may also help to reduce stress and anxiety related to the virus by identifying cases early and avoiding outbreaks."

As of March 15, seven confirmed cases of COVID-19 and three high risk contacts were currently being reported in Haliburton County on the local health unit's epidemiological report database. On March 12, an outbreak at Hyland Crest long-term care home was declared

after one staff member tested positive for COVID-19 during routine testing. A total of 58 cases of COVID-19, one of those resulting in death, have been reported in Haliburton County since the beginning of the pandemic.

Further information about asymptomatic targeted testing in schools is available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-asymptomatic-targeted-testing-schools>.

Further information about COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres is available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres>.

Further information about COVID-19 can be found at <http://www.hkpr.on.ca>.

Further information about the TLDSB response to COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.tldsb.ca/covid19/>.

COVID-19 outbreak declared at Hyland Crest

Hyland Crest long-term care home has declared an outbreak of COVID-19, after one staff member tested positive for coronavirus last week.

The positive test came during routine surveillance testing. With the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge region currently in the "Yellow – Protect" zone, a second test was required to confirm the results before an outbreak declaration could be made. On Friday, Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) was notified that the confirmation test was also positive. Further testing has revealed that this positive case is not a variant of the virus.

According to guidance from the Ministry of Health for Long-Term Care homes, if one staff member or resident has a laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19, this must be considered an 'outbreak'. Accordingly, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPRDHU) has officially declared Hyland Crest to be in a COVID-19 outbreak.

Upon testing positive, the staff member immediately began to self-isolate at home and did not return to work at Hyland Crest. HHHS also began to work with the HKPRDHU to manage the situation and identify anyone who may have been exposed, in order to prevent further spread.

Outbreak protocols are now being implemented at Hyland Crest, including: immediate testing of all residents and potentially exposed individuals; isolating all residents to their rooms; and postponing admissions, as well as limited readmissions, discharges and/or transfers.

These protocols are in addition to the stringent Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) measures that have been in place for over a year including: ensuring staff work in only one long-term care facility; actively screening all staff and essential visitors upon entry to the buildings; conducting regular surveillance testing of all long-term care staff and residents; limiting visitors to only those deemed as 'essential caregivers' who must undergo regular COVID-19 testing; and ensuring adequate supply and proper use of personal protective equipment at all times.

"As I have said in the past, we know that COVID-19 is a very contagious virus, and even with all of the most rigorous infection prevention and control measures, cases like this can occur," said Carolyn Plummer, president and CEO of HHHS. "HHHS will continue to deliver the best care and support possible to our long-term care residents and their families, and we remain deeply grateful to our staff and management teams for their hard work and dedication to the infection prevention and control measures that have been part of their daily lives for over a year."

HHHS will continue to monitor this case and Hyland Crest long-term care, will work with the HKPR district health unit to minimize potential spread at Hyland Crest, and provide updates to the community. HHHS remains committed to providing transparency and a safe environment for residents and staff.

-Staff



Haliburton Highlands
Family Health Team

Premier Doug Ford has just released the COVID vaccination Provincial booking telephone number and Provincial online booking portal. You can use this number or online portal to book starting Monday, March 15, 2021, however, in Haliburton, our schedule will not be open until March 18. We plan to start immunizing our 80 plus population March 22.

This relies heavily on vaccine inventory. As of Friday we were promised that inventory.

The clinics will be held at 7217 Gelert Road, 2nd Floor, and will run daily from Monday to Friday, 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

If you show up without an appointment you will not be seen. We will do our very best to support you in booking an appointment to be sure you receive your COVID-19 vaccination.

The Provincial booking number is 1-888-999-6488 and the online portal is <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/>

If you have a red and white health card you must call the booking number as you will not be able to register online. You may also call the number if you do not have a computer or the ability to book online.

You will receive a booking confirmation that you must bring with you the day of your appointment. We will likely not be scanning bar codes, so be sure to have booking code ready.



Chinook 30

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Sirocco 30



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Unexpected costs for Cardiff pool room addition

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

The following are Highlands East briefs from the March 9 council meeting.

Highlands East is looking to re-tender the work related to the Cardiff pool change room addition.

While visiting the construction site recently, Highlands East property manager Jim Alden said cracks were discovered.

"So now they're recommending a change. They want to put in a new frost wall or whole entire slab," he said. He adds this is estimated to cost more than \$32,000.

CAO and treasurer Shannon Hunter has recommended re-tendering this work because of the "change of scope" for the project.

Progress on South Wilberforce Bridge replacement

After close to a 100 years, the single-lane concrete South Wilberforce Bridge is getting replaced. Presented by Brad Kulas, vice-president Planmac Engineering Inc., the South Wilberforce Bridge replacement project has an estimated suggested budget of \$1.729 million (with provincial and federal funding at \$1.32 million) and will go out to tender and Stage 2AA (archaeological assessment) in May. The tentative start construction time for a two-lane bridge, which is subject to the assessment, is June 1 and will be completed by Nov. 30, 2021.

"It's a rather aggressive timeline, but that's what we're targeting today subject to anything coming up that would deter from that schedule," he said.

Before finalizing the design tendering, there will be communication with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and stakeholders such as the First Nations, who will be provided the background reports and engineering drawings, and hold a virtual public informa-

tion meeting.

This will cause traffic to be diverted from the bridge by using Loop Road and South Wilberforce Road.

The bridge has been tested and revealed to be in need of replacement because of a long list of issues, which include exposed rebar; cracks in the concrete beams and girders; delamination, scaling and cracks in the wing walls and loss of concrete and undermining below the abutments. The cause for the issues is related to age of the single-lane concrete bridge, built in 1926.

Building permit requests double

Building department's chief building official Laurie Devolin provided numbers showing there is a lot of construction work happening this year, as part of her monthly report to council.

With just two building permits before lockdown in February, the township is making up ground in that respect, doubling what it received the year before.

"Given February's numbers, it's starting to be quite busy. We have more than doubled our permits from last year at this time. Up to 15 as opposed to seven last year," she said.

The amount of money already being invested at this point in the township this year has been close to triple what it was last year.

"Our construction values have leaped considerably and are well ahead of last year's numbers," she said.

The 2021 construction values to date are up to \$1,821,660 compared to last year's \$567,950.

Vaccinations for fire fighters

While delivering the monthly report for the Highlands East fire department, fire chief Chris Baughman said 12 of his firefighters received the first of two Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines earlier this month.

"That was a happy surprise that we got [it]. It was last minute," he said.

He adds this was the result of extra

doses available that were set to expire and were offered equally to the fire departments. Firefighters are considered "front-line medical staff" that are eligible to

receive a vaccine as part of the province's phase one. It's unknown when the next dose will be administered.

'No one seems to be thinking about how this impacts the kids'

from page 2

Despite being excited to see her kids return to school, Austen admits she still feels some level of anxiety, brought on by the lack of communication by TLDSB. While she knows her daughter will be in a brand new class made up of senior kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students, that's just about the only piece of information she has.

"My daughter has anxiety, we have dealt with it for years and there has always been an open line of communication with the school. But now, when I'm calling up Archie Stouffer to see if they know where the classroom is so that I can calm my daughter down, or if they know who the teacher is so she can get excited, they just don't have any answers. How am I supposed to prep my kids for this transition when I'm getting no information given to me."

As she prepares to homeschool her son,

Switzer reiterated her belief that, this late into the school year, the board should have left things as they were for online learning, and simply transitioned those who wanted to go back to school back into the classroom without impacting the Learn@Home program.

"The system itself, honestly, if they could keep it steady, is really not a bad idea. They just need to keep it consistent. The flip flopping and switching classes and the cutbacks, you know what – pay your teachers, hire them on and let them do their darn job," Switzer said. "They should have hunkered down and finished off the school year. So many kids have been shuffled around too much. Whoever it was that needed to open their pocket to pay staff to keep them on a little longer, that's what should have taken place. At the end of the day, the kids are the ones who are suffering here. No one seems to be thinking about how this impacts the kids."

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Vaccination clinics planned in Minden, Haliburton

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference with acting medical officer of health Dr. Ian Gemmill, held virtually March 10.

The Haliburton Family Medical Centre at 7217 Gelert Road in Haliburton and the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena at 55 Parkside Street in Minden are the first two locations to be named as vaccination clinics in Haliburton County, according to information on the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit website updated last week.

As of March 15, Haliburton residents born in 1941 or earlier can access the provincial booking system, which launched Monday, to book an appointment, with a note on the website reading that vaccination appointments are booked based on vaccine availability.

At last week's press conference before the website update, Gemmill told media that vaccination clinic locations had been chosen in Northumberland County and City of Kawartha Lakes, but that in Haliburton County the team had seen "possible venues in Haliburton County as well," but had not chosen a location for vaccinations for the general population to occur, yet. At that time Gemmill said the team had "been to a number of places, we've been to Minden, Haliburton, Wilberforce, we're looking at them all," using a set of criteria to determine which locations were best, planning for two locations per

county.

"Different places are at different stages and that's going to be a theme, while we get this all set up, until such time that it's just [in order] like a well-oiled machine," he said, noting that vaccinations have already begun for long-term care residents, staff and essential healthcare workers throughout the region. "It's moving along and I'm delighted it's moving along."

Gemmill had hoped vaccination clinics could be arranged in each county with a driving time of 30 minutes or less for residents.

"We want a place that has adequate parking, adequate crowd control, have it so it's accessible enough that people don't have to travel too far," he said.

In Northumberland County, a vaccination clinic at the Cobourg Community Centre will open on Tuesday for residents of that county who are 80 or older, organized by a group in the community that involves volunteers, family health teams and hospitals, "a real community initiative," said Gemmill, and will offer transportation to and from appointments. The public health unit will help to facilitate vaccinations at the clinic. Residents there are to wait for a phone call from that community group inviting them to a vaccination appointment, or to book an appointment online with the province's booking system.

Gemmill asked that residents not phone their family doctor.

"Nobody out there should be calling their family doc and saying where's my vaccine, because it will flood their lines," he said.

In City of Kawartha Lakes, vaccination

clinics will be open at the Lindsay Exhibition Hall, and Fenelon Falls Community Centre, and residents born in 1941 or earlier there can book an appointment using the provincial booking website.

The website to book appointments, beginning with those 80 and older, is Ontario.ca/bookvaccine. For those without internet access, the Provincial Vaccine Information Line is 1-888-999-6488. Phone lines are open Monday to Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

'Don't let your guard down yet'

Gemmill said that cases in the HKPR region are "still creeping up" and said he remained concerned about variants of concern, more transmissible variants of the COVID-19 virus, that were spreading through the province.

"These are the situations that lead us to recommend don't let your guard down yet, it's too early yet to let your guard down," he said.

At press time, 28 variants of concern had been identified in the region – 23 of those in Northumberland County and five in City of Kawartha Lakes.

The region has moved to the Yellow-Protect zone, which Gemmill said is helpful for people to "get the things they need," and will help businesses, but that gathering, travelling and informal situations are still contributing to the spread of the virus.

"We can't get too relaxed and become cavalier at this point in time," he said, noting there were several more weeks, "maybe even over the summer," before the community might relax more.

"We know from experience everywhere," he said. "The virus will accelerate if we're not careful."

Gemmill said the health unit had been told they'd be receiving approximately 5,000 doses of vaccine per week.

"Now if you do the math, 5,000 doses per week means 36 weeks to do everybody," he said.

"I'm very hopeful that while this is the number of doses we've been allocated or promised for the next four weeks, that as more vaccine becomes available we will have more access to that vaccine and be able to do more coming in the spring."

Gemmill said if the health unit was "using it up as fast as we get it, I'll ask for more."

A shipment of vaccines for people 80 and older was expected to arrive March 15.

When asked by a reporter why the HKPR health unit is one of few of 34 health units across the province that doesn't list total doses of vaccine administered on a vaccine tracker website, Gemmill said, "we're working on it."

"We're spending a lot of time trying to get the upcoming vaccine venues and clinics organized," he said. "Our epidemiologists are still setting up a system to ensure proper reporting of the vaccine data, and the plan is to have these available on the website as well so people can see how things are progressing. We are still getting that system set up do that in a way that is efficient and accurate."

Gemmill said, as he has previously, that areas with greater incidence of the virus and higher populations will receive more vaccine from the province first.

"It's really important to say to people, guys, this is not a race amongst ourselves, this is a race against the virus and we are all doing our very level best, I don't know anybody who's saying, I'm going to be a laggard on this, everybody wants to get vaccine into arms quickly for the reasons we all know, and everybody is doing their level best to make it happen. We can do what we can with the vaccine we've got."

Health unit launches "Click and Connect"

A new feature on the HKPRDHU website allows the public easy access to ask the local health unit a question, or report a complaint via forms on the site. Visit <https://www.hkpr.on.ca/covid-19/> for more details. Additionally, the public can ask questions and hear directly from Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health, through free, hour-long online information sessions on March 16 from 1 to 2 p.m., and March 30 from 1 to 2 p.m. Visit <https://www.hkpr.on.ca/2021/02/09/sign-up-for-talk-with-the-doc-virtual-town-hall/> to learn how to watch live or on the health unit's YouTube channel at a later date.

Take Action for Epilepsy Purple Day MARCH 26



Katie's Run for Epilepsy is an event held each summer in the Haliburton Highlands (katiesrun.ca). To date we have raised \$373,000 for much needed epilepsy research. With 1 in 100 people living with epilepsy, we need to take action.

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Friday, March 26 to Sunday, April 4, 2021

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The "Stations of the Cross Tour" provides an opportunity for each of us to reflect on our need for the resurrecting power of Jesus Christ in our lives today.

From March 26 to Easter Sunday, April 4, outdoor installations of local art, representing the story of Jesus' Journey to the cross will be open for you to visit at various sites in and near Haliburton village.

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For a tour guide, map and more information visit:
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JDHES students lobbying for new athlete murals

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

It's all about standing up for what is right said J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School teacher Marina Thomazo.

That's the driving sentiment behind her Grade 7/8 French Immersion class, who are lobbying the Dysart et al Township to right what they perceive as a wrong and have two new murals with Haliburton Highlands Secondary School alumni Olympian Lesley Tashlin and former CFLer Taly Williams, both Black athletes, to the wall of fame on the side of the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton.

This effort included sending a letter to Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts and having it be included as part of a council meeting on March 23.

The beginning of the letter reads:

"We are the students from the 7/8 French Immersion class at J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School. Since the beginning of September, our school has been committed to foster a culture based on social-justice principles of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. We regularly celebrate during our morning announcements and in our classes the achievements of people who demonstrate those principles and local excellence."

This focus helped them learn about the Olympic sprinter Lesley Tashlin and her brother, former CFLer Taly Williams. "She graduated from J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School and then Haliburton Highlands Secondary School where she earned Athlete of the Year honours in 1987. After several years, she became a national champion in the 100 metre hurdles and then competed for Canada at the 1996 Atlanta Summer Games where she competed in the 4 x 100 metre relay and the 100 metre hurdles. Her brother Williams, who was introduced to football when he played for the HHSS football team, played for the University of Waterloo and then professionally for the Toronto Argonauts and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the Canadian Football League.

Thomazo said her students, some who had been raised in the area, just didn't understand why they never heard of the two athletes and believed it was wrong they hadn't been recognized.

"It becomes quite a habit to stand for the little guys that they believe have been treated unfairly or they haven't been recognized for what they did. That's what my students were saying. Especially when we presented those two people and they said, 'how come we don't know about them?' she said.

Thomazo said the main difference between this year's students and other years is how they are independent thinkers, who question what has happened because of what they have been exposed to in the news and how they look up to people of different ethnicities.

"It's the world we live [in]. It's everything that's happening. They grew up thinking differently. They see more through social media because they are constantly on it. They see change is happening around the world and want to see change happening in their own community as well I believe," she said.

Mayor Roberts welcomed the letter from the students, which included the mural request and asked for clarification about the athlete selection process.

In an email, Roberts said, it's important the students are looking at social justice, inclusion, diversity and equity. She adds, "I am encouraged to think that children of that age are having these conversations."

Roberts encouraged the students of the class to watch the proceedings via YouTube. She doesn't remember there was



A J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School Grade 7/8 class is hoping to have Olympian Lesley Tashlin and brother Taly Williams, who played for the Toronto Argonauts and the Hamilton Ti-Cats added to the wall of fame on the side of the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. The last mural added to the wall was in 2012 of Mike Bradley, who played in the CFL. /DARREN LUM Staff

any selection criteria for athletes to have a mural when she was on council when the last murals were added in 2012, but will be checking with former Mayor Murray Fearrey.

From an *Echo* article in 2012, the murals were funded anonymously and included the addition of NHL player Cody Hodgson and then later in the year CFLer Mike Bradley was added. Fearrey said at the time "this is a wall of fame for people who have made it in professional sports."

Retired HHSS teacher and Tashlin's former track coach for four years Paul Morissette remembers Tashlin as an unbelievable person, as well as hard working, coachable and humble. He can't think of a more deserving candidate to be added to the wall of murals on the A.J. LaRue Arena.

"Without a doubt, she is the most accomplished female athlete this county has ever produced. Without a doubt," he said.

Morissette said every year Tashlin competed in as many track events as allowed, competing in three track events in addition to the relay disciplines: 4 x 100 metres and 4 x 400 metres. Her toughness was on full display in her first year. He still remembers how the 14-year-old Tashlin forced a photo finish with a never-say-die dive to win a hurdling race at the Eastern Ontario track finals in Ottawa.

"She goes over the last hurdle and she slowly loses her balance, but she fought right through to the end [before falling] - there's about a 10 or 12 metre run from the last hurdle to the finish line. She dove across and it looked like she fell, but the reality was ... we had to go back and look at the tape - the photo finish tape because they were going to disqualify her. Lo and behold, she finished the race. Her head went across, in the up right position. That kind of epitomized that will to finish," he said.

Morissette recently spoke to Tashlin, who is a registered massage therapist with her own practice in Ottawa. She spent nine years training and competing as an elite track athlete around the world, representing Canada. She was a national champion in the 100-metre hurdles, and represented Canada at the Commonwealth Games in 1994 and 1998, the Pan American Games in 1995 and 1999, and the Jeux de la Francophonie in 2001.

During their conversation, he said, she told him about how getting to compete in a full range of sports from autumn to spring at HHSS helped foster her love of sport and benefited her in athletics.

"Her love for sport came [from] here. Passion, love for sport where she wasn't burnt out and the university level and beyond is where she [excelled]," he said.

She recounted the toll that was paid by many female athletes at the university level, who were either injured or burned out physically from over training and competing in one sport for many years. Morissette said Tashlin could have focused on only track, training with clubs outside of the county, but chose to play all the sports such as field hockey, volleyball, and badminton, he said.

Although her Olympics ended before the finals during the heats in the hurdles, he remembers how she didn't let that take away from her experience.

"She clipped a hurdle early on. She didn't sulk about it. She didn't quit. She ran the 4 x 100 [metre relay race]. She still had the time of her life," he said. "She knew in that particular [hurdle] race that she needed to be exceptionally fast. She was running against the very, very best."

He believed she had the potential to move on from that heat had she stayed on her feet.

In an email message from Tashlin's brother, he said it was his excellence in academics that set him apart from others. The pursuit of academics and a path to post-secondary education was part of the reason why he moved from Toronto and attended HHSS for his final two years. He said receiving the award for having the second highest average of all graduating students as "one of my proudest moments up there" in 1989. He remembers the "weekly battles" to keep marks high against peers such as Jamie Bruce, Paul Robinson and Chris Youngdale. With the French award for the highest grade, he acknowledged his teachers such as French teacher Mrs. McLean, math teacher Mrs. Cooper, physics teacher Mr. Cooper and Mr. Morissette for being "excellent teachers."

These accolades, he said, are representative of what he was able to gain from Haliburton.

"Obviously, I was quite good in athletics but it was the academics that really set me apart from others at the University of Waterloo and later with the Argonauts and Ti-Cats," he wrote.

There were also challenges, apart from a busy schedule with academics and athletics.

"Being a minority in Haliburton was definitely a challenge and also noticeable ... I do thank people like the Little family, the Rydmans, Madills, and I am certain there are others that helped make my time there enjoyable. Obviously, being Lindsey and Lesley's brother made the transition much, much easier. We already had a great name up there before I arrived so

I was fortunate to be able to benefit from that," he wrote.

From Williams' LinkedIn, he is currently the co-founder and managing partner at AQORA Capital, an investment firm focused on water infrastructure, technology and services. He is an inventor of the Taly Mind Set for golf, and is also an expert in North America for treatment of extremely impaired drinking water, as stated in his LinkedIn page.

Williams said he was "touched" by the students' efforts and thanks them for what they're trying to do.

"I would love to be on a mural to be a symbol to my kids and others regarding what you can achieve and who can achieve it," he wrote.

Related to athletics, he said, his sister is one of his heroes.

"She is just amazing. If only one of us could get on the mural, I would want it to be her," he wrote. "Her and [my other sister] Lindsey's success in Haliburton and then Lesley's Olympic success later on really drove me. She made me stronger physically (literally). Always racing or testing me in the gym and being able to lift as much and more than me really drove me."

Tashlin may not have earned the pay cheques earned by male athletes, who played in the NHL, but she was a professional in attitude and by the country..

Morissette points out she was a paid athlete because of her status with the federal government, who provided funding to high national level athletes. For most female athletes, he said, sport really is only about the love of the game because there are only a few exceptions such as tennis and golf where women can aspire to the wealth that males can attain as a high calibre athlete. He said track is demanding and pushed Tashlin to train and compete for much of her nine years competing, really, only taking a break to raise a family.

Thomazo said she's aware of the hurdles related to how governance can play in getting things done so she has prepared her students for possible delays and challenges. However, she's hopeful. When the last murals were added it was a different time with different attitudes. So far there has already been a positive: the awareness raised and the discussion that has come from the effort is a benefit for all the students.

"It can spark some discussion and people can think twice, 'Yeah, why did we miss out on that?' And, yes, we may encounter barriers, but it's all positive," she said, referring to the discussion raised.

"We were all excited about it. It was presented during a morning announcement and it sparked conversation in classes and this is what we wanted. We want people to re-think, not only think, but re-think," she said.

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Public invited to first virtual Celebration of Research

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

U-Links is inviting the public to its first ever virtual Celebration of Research, featuring 30 community-based research projects including the topics of biodiversity protection, shoreline stewardship and biomonitoring from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 27 on the Zoom platform.

The no-fee event moderated by not-for-profit Art of Festivals director, Fanny Martin is a showcase of student research efforts for local community organizations such as the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, the non-government organization, The Land Between, and local cottagers' associations.

Amanda Duncombe-Lee, U-Links program co-ordinator, said this event is a long-standing annual U-Links tradition and gives the public insight to students' work.

"We just see it as a really good opportunity for the public to connect about important research that's happening in Haliburton County in the areas of the environment, socio-cultural and economic [areas]," she said.

The event's presentations will start with a few sessions in the main room, and once those are completed there will be additional sessions held in breakout rooms, featuring the remaining student presenters.

Fourth-year Trent University student in conservation biology Leanne Matthews is part of the opening group of students in the main room, who will present her findings after studying benthic invertebrates at seven sites on Kennesis Lake since September. This was part of a group effort where 11 lakes in the area (17 in total in the Haliburton region) are being studied in what is year two of a five year study.

"Right now, we're just kind of collecting enough data over the next few years to create that baseline so we can start saying like, 'Oh, something is wrong here. Or, they're doing something really great. The lake looks amazing,'" she said.

A benthic invertebrate is an organism without a backbone that lives in or on the bottom sediments of rivers, streams and lakes. It includes such aquatic larval insects as mayflies, and also mussels and snails. She adds examining these invertebrates helps to provide a health profile of a lake.

"By understanding how these communities work and how they live in the lakes and how they are affected by pollution then we can understand the community of the lake as a whole so that would impact fish populations, which in turn would affect like angler involvement and fishing activities ... so they're one of the more central focuses of lake health," she said.

There were more than a thousand invertebrates collected and brought back to the lab to be identified, organized into groups and used to provide scores on lake health, she adds. She continues, invertebrates with a high intolerance to pollution have a high score and those intolerant have a low score. Leeches and snails have high intolerance while mayflies are less tolerant and serve as "key indicator species."

"What's missing can sometimes tell us more about the lake than what's present," she said.

Environmental and resource science Trent University student Samantha Dunlop will be in one of the breakout rooms to present Biodiversity Planning and Protection in the Land Between project: understanding the levels and opportunities for environmental protection at the municipal level in the land between bio-region.

From September, she worked on the identifying what the municipal bylaws or the "policy levers" that are within an official plan related to environmental features in a given municipality such as areas as trees, setbacks, shorelines, brown fields, green space, night lighting, noise, zoning bylaws for the Land Between.

"We're able to identify the different bylaws that say give direction on tree preservation, or establish buffers between lakes and different buildings or roads and things like that," she said.

Dunlop said this project is "creating an inventory of those policy levers that we know what's what and what's where and then doing a content analysis of those policy levers we're able to identify more themes and understand what they mean. From there a gap analysis can be done in the future," she said.

It's important, she said, to point out the gap analysis is not part of the scope of her work.

Dunlop said the the Land Between has planned to present this information to the municipalities, but for this event the hope is to raise ideas in the community.

"At least during the Celebration of Research, we're hoping that this will inspire people to think about some



Trent University student and researcher Leanne Matthews watches her program co-ordinator/supervising biologist, Brendan Martin collecting water quality data on Kennesis Lake. Matthews is welcoming the public to attend the U-Links virtual Celebration of Research scheduled for Saturday, March 27. See website (www.ulinks.ca) for more information. Submitted by Leanne Matthews

of the bylaws and things in place and think about gaps. Maybe somebody from Peterborough is going to look at it and go, 'Oh, we don't have that specific policy lever to protect that sort of habitat so it's that local level of awareness and action,'" she said.

After the presentations and breakout sessions, there will be a networking cafe available for an informal virtual chat about the projects.

"That's one of the organic processes that happens at the in-person Celebration of Research. It's that coming together of the community to talk about the research and maybe there might be an employment for a student that's there, or someone wants a follow-up project idea," she said.

Duncombe-Lee said it was important to have an event this year after the short-notice cancellation of last year's Celebration of Research.

"We're just working extra hard this year to put together, hopefully, a dynamic and engaging event that we want to basically bring people together," she said.

With an in-person event, the concern is about order-

ing enough food, the quality of audio and the venue, but with a virtual event there are a variety of technical details to work out and recommendations that users have the most up-to-date version of Zoom.

There will be two "dry runs" ahead of the event to address any potential problems.

Duncombe-Lee encourages early registration so the number of people attending for the event are known to ensure the best user experience. However, the deadline to register is a day before the event. She adds the recommendation is for people to use a desktop computer or laptop using the operating system Windows 7 or higher for the best user experience. Register at www.ulinks.ca.

Although this year's event is virtual, Duncombe-Lee believes it could serve as an example for others.

"It's going to be a very new experience, but we hope it goes well and we hope that other organizations are inspired by the event to do their own virtual events because for a lot of us it's the only choice we have right now," she said.

Bursaries available through YWCA Peterborough Haliburton

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The YWCA Peterborough Haliburton is offering women who have experienced gender-based violence the opportunity to pursue a new career.

Applications for the 2021 Hazel Education Bursary have been opened, with Kim Dolan, executive director of the YWCA Peterborough Haliburton, noting there are two bursaries – one for \$2,500 and another for \$1,500 - available this year.

The bursaries are intended to help women reach their goals through education or training. To qualify, women must have experienced barriers related to the impact of violence and abuse, have a dream to strengthen their economic security, be a resident of Peterborough or Haliburton County and seek to further their formal or informal education, or develop skills.

The grant was established in 1998 in recognition of Hazel, a volunteer from the Peterborough area, who for years sought to assist women who had been the victims of violence and "help them to pursue their dreams."

"[Hazel] believed that everyone deserves a chance, and that chance should be made possible. She learned to speak out and encouraged others to stand up and be heard," said Hazel's daughter, who wished to remain anonymous.

Hazel passed away in 1996, following a long illness with breast cancer.

As per Hazel's request, special consideration for the awards will be given to women from rural areas. Interested individuals are asked to submit a completed application by 4 p.m. on April 19.

To learn more, or to apply, visit ywcapeterborough.org/get-help/education/, or contact Yvonne Porter at 705-743-3526 ext. 116, or by email at yporter@ywcapeterborough.org.



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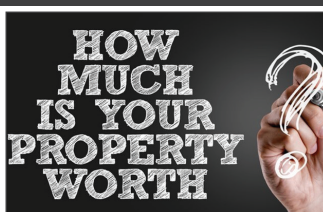
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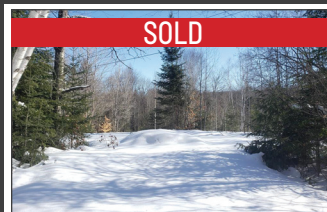
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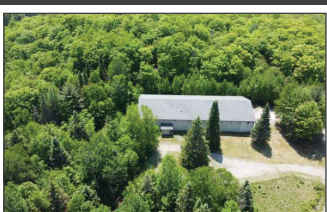
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Highlands hosting its own Journey to Easter

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Take a journey in the Highlands and celebrate Easter like you’ve never done before with the Haliburton County Stations of the Cross Tour.

Crossword brought to you by

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- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
 - 4. Ceramic jars
 - 9. Monetary units
 - 14. Alias
 - 15. "Superman" actor
 - 16. Briton tribe
 - 17. Shorten
 - 18. LA Dodgers manager
 - 20. Hoarded
 - 22. Theatrically portray
 - 23. Noah's grandson
 - 24. Dependent
 - 28. Peyton's little brother
 - 29. Cools the house
 - 30. Principle part of
 - 31. Type of wrap
 - 33. Peels
 - 37. Commercial
 - 38. Make an attempt
 - 39. Arrange in steps
 - 41. U. Utah athlete
 - 42. Old English
 - 43. Trade
 - 44. Nostrils
 - 46. Ticket seller __Hub
 - 49. Of I
 - 50. Institute legal proceedings against
 - 51. Takes apart
 - 55. Doorway
 - 58. Long int'l river
59. Trailblazing athlete

Gibson

60. Former CBS News host

64. Sign language

65. Badgerlike mammal

66. Thin strips of wood

67. Brooklyn hoopster

68. Portents of good or evil

69. Footwear

70. When you think you'll arrive
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Batflower genus
 - 2. Predatory seabirds
 - 3. Fish farm
 - 4. Arrangements
 - 5. Go in advance of others
 - 6. Bulgarian monetary unit
 - 7. "___ Maria"
 - 8. W. African ethnoreligious group
 - 9. Wild Asian oxen genus
 - 10. Vinegary
 - 11. To this
 - 12. Explosive
 - 13. Female sibling
 - 19. Orlando museum (abbr.)
21. Type of hoop

24. About Holy Father

25. Academic environment

26. Extremely angry

27. Surrenders

31. Swiss mountain pass

32. Sharp mountain ridge

34. Erases

35. Spielberg's alien

36. Absurd

40. Dorm worker

41. Used to make pesticides

45. The sister of your father or mother

47. A way to let know

48. Can't produce much vegetation

52. Small streams

53. Folk singer DiFranco

54. Weights

56. Start over

57. Black Sea resort city

59. Wimbledon champ

60. Corporate executive (abbr.)

61. Unskilled actor who overacts

62. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

63. Of or relating to ears

Answers on page 16

From March 26 to Easter Sunday, April 4, the community is invited by the Church of Haliburton County to tour the area's nine participating churches and see the 14 stations shown through the creative work produced by nine amateur artists, starting at nine, who will show Jesus' journey to the cross.

There are nine participating locations: Lakeside Church, St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church, Haliburton United Church, The Lighthouse, Northland Faith Church, West Guilford Baptist Church, Eagle Lake Church, Lochlin United Church and Ingoldsby United Church, both in Minden.

Chairman of the Haliburton Ministerial Association, who represents the participating churches, Paul Graham said there are a few reasons why this event is exciting for the churches of Haliburton County.

"Even though we all come from different Christian traditions, we all serve the same God and put our hope in the same Jesus. The Stations of the Cross are a reminder of that diversity and unity we share. The "stations" method comes from a very Catholic or Anglican tradition that perhaps Baptists or Pentecostals wouldn't normally embrace, but we get to share in the richness of those traditions by doing this together. On the other hand, the way the stations are presented through art is different than the Anglicans might expect, so they see their traditions in a new light as well," he wrote in an email.

He adds this event is possible because of its support from church members, who created the art.

"These are personal expressions of their faith and reflections on what Jesus is teaching us through the Easter season. We were a bit limited by the pandemic and the outdoor installations, but we are learning what could be possible for next year," he wrote.

Highlands resident Heather Alloway

has been the driving force behind this event and calls it a "journey to Easter."

This tour isn't just for Christians, Alloway added.

"Whether you're a Christian or whether you're not a Christian it involves big life questions and it provides place during Easter and Lent to just be reflective," she said. "With COVID-19, a lot of people cannot even darken their own churches let alone whatever. It allows people to walk by, social distanced, and drive by, you know, get the guide and have an Easter celebration despite our masking," she said.

The inspiration for this tour, Alloway said, came from how Toronto will be hosting the Stations of the Cross Crossings: A Journey of Easter Arts Exhibition event in 2022. Started in 2016, this event series has already been hosted around the world such as London, Washington, New York and Amsterdam.

From promotional material for the Highlands' event, it states: The hope moving forward, is that each new year, budding or established local, Christian artists could contribute art pieces to guide us along the Way of the Cross through this tour.

Graham said even though each station will have its own message, he wants people to finish the tour with an overall feeling of hope.

"If the pandemic has taught us anything over the last year it is that life can distract us from what is really important. It has taught us how close all of us are to illness, to loneliness, even to despair or hopelessness. We want people to physically visit and see that God has not left Haliburton without hope. He has provided a way for people to know Him, and to experience His mercy. His church is right here in this community, in many places, offering that good news."

A guide for the tour is available at mylakeside.ca/SOChaliburton



The Haliburton United Church is one of nine locations participating in the Haliburton County Stations of the Cross tour, which will be held for the public from March 26 to Easter Sunday, April 4. A tour map of the stations is available at the website mylakeside.ca/SOChaliburton/ DARRIN LUM Staff

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County								
County	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current High Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to Date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)
Haliburton	7	3	0	58	50	3	1	0
Kawartha Lakes	10	154	0	558	506	29	42	13
Northumberland	17	41	0	468	439	17	12	0
Total***	34	234	0	1,084	995	49	55	13

Seven active cases in Haliburton County

On March 15, five new confirmed cases of COVID-19 were added to Haliburton County's case count, for a total of seven active local cases. Three current high risk contacts are included in the March 15 report./Screenshot from the HKPRDHU website



Above, hotdogs were on the menu for Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Grade 9 students.



Right, an attached bell on the tip of a fishing rod helps with alerting Grade 9 student William Burke to hear if he has a fish on.



A focus on patience

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Grade 9 student Damian Briand is a study in focus, as he lowers and raises his rod during while ice fishing on Head Lake during gym class. With 14 students, the class received a lesson in ice fishing, safety, including how to perform a rescue before going on the frozen lake. The first and only fish caught during the afternoon was by Dustin Douglas, who caught a perch within the first few minutes. This field trip with hotdogs served was part of a few other series of outings, which included tobogganing and skating, held at the end of the semester. /DARREN LUM Staff



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PUBLIC NOTICE
Evergreen Cemetery

Municipality of Dysart have submitted the amendments to the following By-laws, which will be considered by Council at their meeting on April 27th, 2021.

- By-law No. 2017-42 – Cemetery Maintenance and Management By-Law for Evergreen Cemetery; and
- By-law No. 2017-43 – Cemetery Fees and Charges By-Law.

Further information on these proposed changes are available on Dysart's website: <https://www.dysart.ca>

Laurie Salvatori, Deputy Clerk lsalvatori@dysart.ca
(705)457-1740 x.622



On March 5, two hikers were rescued by Haliburton Highlands OPP, including aviation and an emergency response team, after becoming lost in Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park. / Screenshot from OPP aviation video



Municipality of Dysart et al
Notice of Proposed Sale of Municipal Land

Take notice that the Corporation of the Municipality of Dysart et al intends to pass a by-law to dispose of certain lands that have been declared as surplus described in Schedule "A" hereto;

And further notice that the purpose and effect of the proposed by-law is to authorize the sale of the said lands to 2637795 Ontario Ltd. (Highland Design);

And further notice that any person wishing to comment on the proposed sale should submit such comments in writing to the Clerk at the address set out below on or before the 17th day of March, 2021.

And further take notice that the proposed by-law will come before the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Dysart et al, at its regular meeting on the 23rd day of March, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Dated at Haliburton and published this 10th day of March, 2021.

Mallory Bishop, Clerk
705-457-1740 x631
mbishop@dysart.ca

Schedule "A"

Part 20, Plan 19R-4878, Part of Lot 11, Concession 9,
Geographic Township of Dysart

SUE TIFFIN
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Two 62-year-old hikers were rescued after becoming lost in Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park on March 5, despite numerous challenges for OPP in the recovery.

At about 4:19 p.m. that day, Haliburton Highlands OPP responded to a call from a man saying that he and his wife were lost in the provincial park near Minden.

"The caller continued dialing 911 with updates, however, the cell phone reception was very poor," said Iryna Nebogatova, OPP spokesperson.

OPP officers including an aviation team began searching the area, and located the two hikers but could not

land due to the terrain and conditions. Emergency Response Team members then responded with OPP snowmobiles.

"Due to a water crossing, the ERT members had to walk for approximately 1.2 kilometres to locate the missing hikers," said Nebogatova. The hikers were located in good health by ERT members.

On Twitter, OPP Central Region shared a video of the hikers being spotted from the air, noting that in an emergency, people should not panic; stop: sit, think, observe and plan; stay put to help reduce time and search area; seek shelter and stay warm, and signal for help.

"Whether your activity is during the summer or winter, on land or water, anywhere in Ontario, proper planning and emergency preparedness is crucial for your safety when planning outdoor activities," said Nebogatova.



Making tracks at Glebe

Haliburton cottager Brian Steinhart ascends a hill on Saturday, March 6 at Glebe Park in Haliburton. The Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trail and Ski Club Association member loves the area and while up here is a regular visitor to Glebe Park where he Nordic skis and mountain bikes, using studded tires to navigate the snow covered trails during the winter. / DARREN LUM Staff

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Hawks rink receive belated provincial championship banner

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

It was a long time coming for the Red Hawks boys' curling team, but the Ontario School Curling Provincial Championship title banner has come home.

Delivered by committee chairman Carlos Gregorio, the title banner delivery and presentation outside the school was close to a year in the waiting for the Hawks team of skip, Jacob Dobson, vice, Liam Little, second Corin Gervais, and lead Owen Nicholls, who captured the title following their successful run capped off at the finals for the championship held over the Feb. 13 to 15 weekend in Chatham, Ontario. This weekend competition followed a series of qualification rounds, which included winning the zone title in Haliburton in December, 2019, followed by a regional title win several weeks later in Richmond Hill in February.

Skip Dobson acknowledged the disappointment of lost opportunities related to not being able to curl for the school this past year because of the pandemic, but recognized the importance of what the banner represents.

"We were definitely looking forward to it after last year, going in as favourites and just not being able to play to finish that up. That would have been a real nice highlight," he said, referring to getting to compete for the school and be able to compete towards an OFSAA (Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations) title. "Our goal was to win a provincial [title] and we did."

During the same year of winning the provincial championship, the boys also captured the Kawartha championship title and the COSSA (Central Ontario Secondary Schools Association) championship title, which earned them a berth to OFSAA. Unfortunately, their quest to compete to be the best school and take the OFSAA title ended when the pandemic hit, which ended all athletics and large gatherings.

The banner is expected to be included in the trophy case at the high school and once it is allowed it will be transferred to the Haliburton Curling Club where the team practiced before the pandemic.

The team earned the honour of being able to keep the provincial trophy for a year and each member also received champion badges, personal trophies and jack-



The Red Hawks boys' curling team's assistant coach, Erin Nicholls, from left, lead, Owen Nicholls, coach, Darrell Dobson, vice, Liam Little, second, Corin Gervais, and skip Jacob Dobson, who holds the Ontario School Curling Provincial Championship title (formerly the Gore Mutual Ontario School Championships) banner after accepting it from Ontario School Curling Provincial Championships committee chairman Carlos Gregorio, far left, on Thursday, March 11 at the high school in Haliburton. This was more than a year after the team had captured the title after the finals competition (Feb. 13 to 15) was held because of the pandemic. The banner will be kept in the school until it is moved to the Haliburton Curling Club./

DARREN LUM Staff

ets.

Although Little and Dobson will graduate and pursue post-secondary education, Nicholls and Gervais are expected to return to HHSS next year.

Coach Darrell Dobson, who was assisted by Erin Nicholls, said, "They peaked right when the pandemic

hit and they made it to OFSAA last year. They would have likely done well and then would have been in a good position for a second year so that's a bit of a loss for them. It's a really, really uplifting [thing] to have the banner and the celebration, a reminder."

Low turn-out for TLDSB school testing

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Students, their families and staff of six Trillium Lake-lands District School Board schools in Haliburton County were invited to take part in targeted testing on March 6, with 69 people ultimately being tested.

The targeted testing of staff and students in public schools was expanded throughout the province by the Ministry of Education on Feb. 1 to "offer an additional layer of protection and help keep schools and child care centres safe," according to the provincial government by "identifying cases that might otherwise have gone undetected; reducing transmission of COVID-19 from community into schools and within schools; and, reducing barriers and making it easier to get a test in your community."

"Asymptomatic testing is an important layer of protection that helps to track and prevent the spread of COVID-19," reads a March 3 TLDSB media release. "Increased testing may also help to reduce stress and anxiety related to the virus by identifying cases early and avoiding outbreaks."

The school board had partnered with LifeLabs to provide the voluntary asymptomatic testing. A message went home to TLDSB families about the testing on March 2 and 3 and the tests took place for asymptomatic individuals – those not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms – from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. Participants could register in advance or drop in that Saturday.

"We went just because we could," said Trish Sweeting-Hogg, a Minden mom. "I would hate to be an asymptomatic positive case, or my child, and potentially spreading it to someone who can't fight it off."

Sweeting-Hogg said the test was non-invasive – a front nasal swab rather than one that reaches further back in the nose, that she experienced no discomfort, and that the testing process took very little time. She said it was well-organized, with clearly marked entrances and exits, plenty of hand sanitizer and well-spread out tables.

"The test process is very simple and safe and the collection site will be staffed by professionals who will be following a multitude of safety parameters," reads an e-mail to families from Chris Boulay, HHSS principal. "LifeLabs uses a swab similar to a Q-tip that is inserted into the front part of the nostril and rotated for 15 seconds (per nostril). After the sample is collected, the test results will then be available within 24-48 hours on LifeLabs WorkClear Thrive application."

Sweeting-Hogg said the testing team was great with kids, which included her seven-year-old son, Grade 1 student Kolby.

"[They] made them feel comfortable and made it more fun for them," she said. "They made everyone feel totally comfortable."

A communications officer for TLDSB said that due to the school reorganization happening on March 15, they could not tell the *Haliburton Echo*, when asked by the paper on March 10 and then March 11, how many staff and students attend TLDSB schools, however, based on counts at each school the *Echo* estimates that the TLDSB population in Haliburton County is greater than 1600 people, which includes staff and students. When asked how many people had participated in the testing day, the TLDSB communications department directed the *Echo* to LifeLabs, with a communications rep from that team responding with results showing 69 tests were conducted.

A similar testing day inviting seven schools in the Kawartha, Pine Ridge district school board saw 205 participants, with four positive tests being reported, and five schools in the Simcoe County district school board

having 168 participants with zero positive tests being reported.

"I'm not sure if people think it was all going to be the big, long swab so didn't go, or if it was timing and travel for some people," said Sweeting-Hogg of the turnout.

For Sweeting-Hogg and her family, it was an opportunity they wouldn't miss.

"I will always take the opportunity to get tested in case I happen to be that asymptomatic positive," she said.

The family received negative results e-mailed to them within 24 hours.

In Fall 2020, more than 9,000 students, their families and school staff were tested in over 60 schools in Toronto, Peel, York and Ottawa, with about two per cent of tests showing a positive result for COVID-19, the majority of those cases coming from household cases according to the provincial government. The government has said up to 50,000 tests per week could be administered through targeted COVID-19 testing in schools and child care settings.

The school board said plans are to have testing taking place every Saturday for the next three weeks in various locations across the board, with the school communicating directly with parents and guardians when asymptomatic testing is available for their school community.

Two cases of COVID-19 connected to HHSS were reported by the high school principal on March 14. Those tests were not necessarily completed as part of the testing day and do not show up in public results from that day.

Further information about asymptomatic targeted testing in schools is available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-asymptomatic-targeted-testing-schools>.

Further information about COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres is available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres>.

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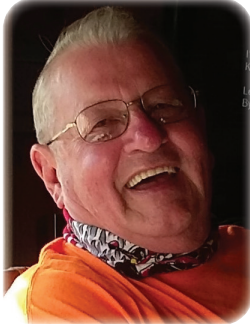
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Memories



In Loving Memory
of a very dear and loving
Father, Grandfather and
Great Grandfather
EDGAR HENRY MUENZEL
Aug. 29, 1937 -
March 15, 2020



*Deeply missed by children
Rita (Daryl), Ed (Jennifer), David
(Laurie) and families.*

We would like to assure all of his
many friends and colleagues
that a Celebration of Life will take
place at an appropriate time.



Michael Bunn (Mike)
Jan. 25, 1977~
March 19, 2017
*A message sent
with love and big Hugs!
We miss you Mike!
Forever in our Hearts*
*Love Always
Mom, Dad and Family*

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650 OBITUARIES

**HALIBURTON
Community
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Robert "Bob" Leu
(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully at his residence on Sunday morning, March 14, 2021 in his 78th year. Loving and devoted husband of Carole Leu (nee Ashby). Dear brother of Patricia, Michael and Pauline (Keith). Caring Step Dad to Sandra & Brian. Loving and fondly remembered as Papa to Christopher, Matthew, Danny, Jessica, Simon & William and Great Papa to Alexis, Haileigh, Channele, Edwin & Quinn. Loving uncle to Cindy (Dennis), Sandra (Patricio), Bradley, Blake, Steven & Andrew. Predeceased by his brother John (Nancy). Bob worked for the Bank of Montreal in Montreal, Quebec, London, England and in Toronto for over 30 years. When he and his wife retired, they moved to Haliburton. Bob loved living in Haliburton and spending winters skiing at Sir Sams.

A Private Family Gathering

A Private Family Gathering will take place at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation - Community Support Services would be appreciated by family.

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650 OBITUARIES



Randy Grant

(Resident of Haliburton)

Peacefully at Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Wednesday afternoon, March 10, 2021 in his 56th year. Loving father of Brandon. Dear brother of Marty. Also lovingly remembered by many aunts, uncles, cousins and his niece Heidi. Randy owned and operated Cool Licks for many years. He looked after Bernstein's General Store. He loved the Haliburton Highlands.

Private Family Funeral Service

A Private Family Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday morning, March 17, 2021 at 11 o'clock. To join the service virtually, copy the following link into your browser ten minutes prior to service time. <https://join.skype.com/txGGeCeQqrHR> As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Institute for the Blind or the Kidney Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com



Ruth Schell

(Resident of Haliburton)

Peacefully at Extendicare-Haliburton on Tuesday morning, March 10, 2021 in her 87th year. Beloved wife of Leslie "Les" Schell. Loving mother of Pamela (Rodney Roberts) and Luke (Shelley). Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Vanessa, Logan, Chyna, Quinn and by her great grandchildren Charlie, Oliver, Tommy, Brinton, Jude, and McKye. Sister of Don, Lloyd, Jack, and Mildred (Milly). Predeceased by her daughter Wendy (1980) and by her brothers George & Russell, and her sister Gwen.

Visitation & Private Funeral Service

Friends & family were invited to call at **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy #118 Haliburton, Ontario, 705-457-9209 on Sunday March 14, 2021 from 1-3 p.m. by appointment only. A Private Funeral Service took place Monday March 15, 2021 at 11 o'clock. As expressions of sympathy, donations to St. George's Anglican Church will be appreciated by the family.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com



In Loving Memory of William "Bill" B. Prentice

Born on February 9th, 1929 – Died March 6th, 2021 at the Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden surrounded by his loving family and the caring, compassionate staff at Hyland Crest.

Cherished husband of the late Lenore Wilda Prentice (nee Trumbull) for 69 years. Dear father (and father-in-law) of Bonnie-Lee Berry (Stephen), Paul Prentice (Patti), Bev Kinsman (Rick), and Tammy McKelvey (Shayne). Loving grandpa to nine precious grandchildren: Cameron Berry (Joanne), Tanya Boisvert (Mike), Jessica Higgins (Joshua), Simon Milestone (Kim), Brittany Miethner (Erik), Rich Kinsman (Kim), Andy Kinsman (Tiffany), Chelsea Cosh (Dylan), Justin McKelvey (Brooke), great grandpa to 19 cherished great grandchildren. Predeceased by his parents Morgan and Lola Prentice and by his brother John Lee "Jack" Prentice. Bill was a deeply loved husband, father, grandpa, great grandpa, special uncle and dear friend to so many people in his community. Family and friends were his life's work.

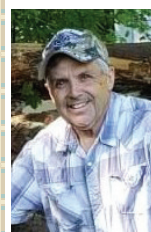
A Private Family Visitation and Funeral Service to celebrate Bill's Life will be held at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, K0M 2K0 on Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

Spring Interment at the Minden Cemetery.

Donations in Bill's memory to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF - Hyland Crest Residents Council) or to the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.

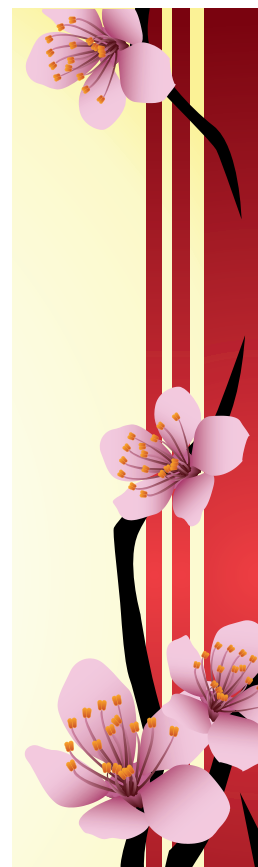


www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



Bowen, Douglas Edward

Peacefully, surrounded by his family, at Quinte Health Care North Hastings Hospital, Bancroft, on Friday, March 05, 2021. Douglas Bowen, age 68 of Highland Grove, was the beloved husband of Brenda (Elliott) Bowen. Loved father of Mary Rutledge (Brad) and Sarah Bowen (Matthew Ganpat). Loving grandfather of Noah and Lyla. Brother of Shirley Finlay (John) and brother-in-law of Beverley Elliott and Joanne Burroughs (Gary). Predeceased by his parents Warren and Phyllis Bowen, his in-laws Tom and Julia Elliott, and his sister-in-law Diane Shank. Fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews and friends. Doug worked for many years as an employee with the Municipality of Highlands East and was also a volunteer firefighter. He will be greatly missed. Douglas' family received relatives and friends at St. John Vianney Catholic Church (5408 Loop Road, Highland Grove) on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 from 11:00 – 1:00 p.m. A private family Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 1:00 p.m. with Father Vic Vales presiding. Interment, South Wilberforce Cemetery, Wilberforce, in the spring. **Due to COVID-19, strict visitation and service restrictions will be in place.** As expressions of sympathy, donations to St. John Vianney Catholic Church would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to M.G. Daly Funeral Home, Maynooth. (Cards available at the funeral home (613) 338-3259 or e-mail condolences to dalyfuneralhome@bellnet.ca or visit www.mgdalyfuneralhome.com).



CLASSIFIEDS

jobs / homes / merchandise / vehicles / services

INSIDE
THIS WEEK:

SPOT THE SHOT

You know that summer's over when
County Life's contest comes to a close

911 AT THE GATE

County works out how to number prop-
erties on gated roads and with water access

OUT OF AFRICA

Rick and Nada Vaughan describe efforts to
help poor villagers in South Africa

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THE ECHO

HALIBURTON COUNTY

Tuesday, March 11, 2003
Vol. 120 No. 13
\$1 including GST



DARREN LUM/EPD

Highlands high

Given how much snow there is, Sir Sam's Ski Area will be a busy place this March Break, which got off to an exciting start on Saturday with a snowboarding competition. Results are in this week's sports section.

121 proposal hopes to lure major retailers to Haliburton

SHERYL LOUCKS

Staff Reporter

Haliburton village's newest proposed commercial development, a retail plaza on Highway 121 near Country Rose, is not going to be a box store like Walmart, but developer Philip Otis remained vague at a recent public meeting about what the approximately \$10-million development will be.

Even the amount is vague. Otis has submitted to council a draft of what a parking lot and a 64,000 square foot, three-unit building might look like, and could cost up to \$10 million to build, but he also made it clear that the development may be considerably smaller or consist of smaller units rather than three large ones.

Otis and his brother Brian are partners in Otis Group of

Companies based in Toronto. He says they have done developments in Barry, Huntsville, Bracebridge and are working on a large project in Gravenhurst. At a public meeting on March 3, he told a crowd of approximately 40 people packed into Dysart's council chambers that Otis Group has won design awards for their efforts to create buildings that fit "seamlessly" into the surrounding town. In this case the nine and half acres the Otis Group plans on purchasing, conditional to the approval of rezoning from residential to commercial, is in an established residential area across from Grass Lake.

He says that creating retail/commercial space along 121 will not hurt the downtown as some people at the meeting suggested

See **Developer** page 6

Echo editor among local Jubilee Medal recipients

SHERYL LOUCKS

Staff Reporter

The blush went to the roots of her hair as Martha Perkins, managing editor of the Haliburton County Echo and the Minden Times, accepted a Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal from MPP Chris Hodgson.

Only 46,000 medals have been awarded to Canadians in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's reign. The medals are given to those who make significant contribu-






tions to their community, volunteer tirelessly or have honourably represented Canada.

In a ceremony in Lindsay last month, four individuals from Haliburton County received the medal: Hilda Clark, Perkins, Margaret Risk and Len Salvatore.


Last year, Perkins edited stories about locals receiving the medal and yet, when it came her turn to sit quietly with her hands in her lap instead of


See **Recipients** page 4

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COMMERCIAL THE LAKE VIEW MOTEL \$1,950,000



One of Haliburton's most popular Motels. The Lakeview Motel offers 14 motel rms and personal living quarters. Immaculate grounds and very well maintained buildings. Turnkey operation. Lovely inground pool, 4 hot tubs, horseshoe pit, dining room, BBQ's and much more offered to guests. Personal living quarters with 3 bdrms, 2 baths, 2 living rms and kitchen/dining area. Huge potential to expand on this 3.78-acre parcel.

INGOLDSBY ROAD \$699,900



This 4-bedroom, 4 bath year-round home is perfectly situated amongst mature trees on 43+ acres. Enjoy beautiful sunsets. Bright kitchen finished with white cabinetry and large island. Living room has cedar cathedral ceilings and stone wood burning fireplace. Partially finished lower level with family room, and walkout to pretty back yard. This multi-level home features a double attached garage, storage sheds and ample space for the family to enjoy the outdoors.

REDSTONE RIVER \$699,000



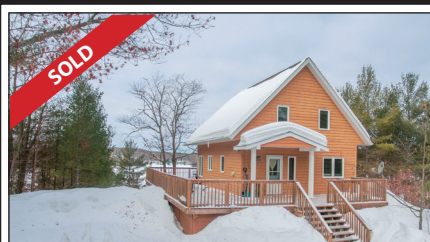
Peace and tranquility are the perfect way to describe this stunning riverfront property. Beautiful 11+ acres with fields, forest, trails, and ample wildlife throughout. 3-bedroom, 3 bath year-round home features a bright eat-in kitchen finished with oak cabinetry and walk out to back deck. Open concept living space, large windows throughout providing ample natural lighting. Gorgeous views from sunken living room. Fully finished walkout basement Attached double garage.

HALBIEM CRES \$699,000



Stunning 4 bedroom, 3 bath home perfectly situated in the prestigious and sought after Haliburton By The Lake subdivision. Bright open concept living on the main level with large living room with wood burning fireplace. Located on the second level is a spacious primary bedroom and ensuite with heated tile floor, 3 additional bedrooms, main bathroom and family room with propane fireplace. Close to Haliburton village. Only a short walk to Head Lake. Access to HBTL Members-Only park. Level yard, double attached garage, peace and tranquility.

BOB LAKE \$699,000



This perfect year-round 3-bdrm, 2 bath home offers everything your family has dreamed of. Stunning western sunset views from a large sitting deck. 7.60-acre lot. Ultimate privacy and ample space for the kids and pets to play. Bright open concept living. Master bdrm with private balcony and stunning views.

KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE RD \$699,000



This stunning year-round home/cottage is conveniently located between the town of Minden and Haliburton village. Main floor features a bright open concept living space, wood cabinetry, powder room and in-floor radiant heat. The second floor offers 3 bdrms, 1 bath, 19-foot vaulted ceilings and stunning maple hardwood flooring. This beautiful home was built in 2016 on a 113+ acre parcel of land.

KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE \$479,000



This cute and cozy 2-bdrm, 1 bath home. Located in the heart of Ingoldsby. Many recent improvements include, flooring throughout, windows, drilled well, new propane furnace and many more. Updated kitchen with white cabinetry and granite counter tops. The beautiful Haliburton room with stunning lake views. Great aluminum docking system and excellent swimming and fishing across the road.

VACANT LOTS

LOUISE LANE
35+AC \$275,000

VOICEY ROAD- 4.35AC
~~\$99,000~~

NEW LISTING
KASHAGAWIGAMOG
LAKE ROAD \$139,500

SOLD
BUSHWICK LAKE ROAD
2.11AC \$41,000

SOLD
BASSHAW LANE
ROAD 1.88AC \$126,900

SOLD
WEST COUNTRY LANE
2.11AC \$31,500

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